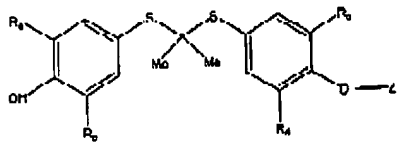
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

(I)



wherein

a) R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are independently any group that does not adversely affect the desired properties of the molecule, including hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, alkaryl, substituted alkaryl, aralkyl, or substituted aralkyl; and

b) Z is (i) ~~a substituted or unsubstituted carbohydrate, (ii) a substituted or unsubstituted alditol, (iii)~~ C_{1-10}alkyl or substituted C_{1-10}alkyl, terminated by sulfonic acid, or ([~~iv~~]ii) C_{1-10}alkyl or substituted C_{1-10}alkyl, terminated by phosphonic acid, (v) ~~substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-10}alkyl-O-C(O)-C_{1-10}alkyl, (vi) straight chained polyhydroxylated C_{2-10}~~ alkyl; ~~(vii) $(CR_2)_{1-6}$-COOH, wherein R is independently~~ hydrogen, ~~halo, amino, or hydroxy, and wherein at least one of the R substituents is not hydrogen;~~ or ~~(viii) $(CR_2)_{1-6}$-X, wherein X is aryl, heteroaryl, or heterocycle, and R is independently~~ hydrogen, ~~halo, amino, or hydroxy~~.

Claim 2 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are t-butyl.

Claim 3 - Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is-$(CR_2)_{1-6}$-sulfonic acid, and R

is independently hydrogen, halo, amino, or hydroxy.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is-$(CR_2)_{1-6}$-phosphonic acid, and R is independently hydrogen, halo, amino, or hydroxy.

Claim 11 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is-$(CR_2)_{1-4}$-phosphonic acid, and R is independently hydrogen, halo, or hydroxy.

Claim 12 to Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are t-butyl, and Z is 2-hydroxypropan-3-sulfonic acid.

Claims 24-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 29-34 (canceled)

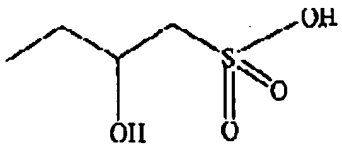
Claim 35 (original): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28 wherein R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are t-butyl, and Z is 2-hydroxypropan-3-sulfonic acid.

Claim 36 to claim 71 (canceled)

Claim 72 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28 wherein R_a, R_b, R_c, and R_d are t-butyl.

Claim 73 to Claim 76 (canceled)

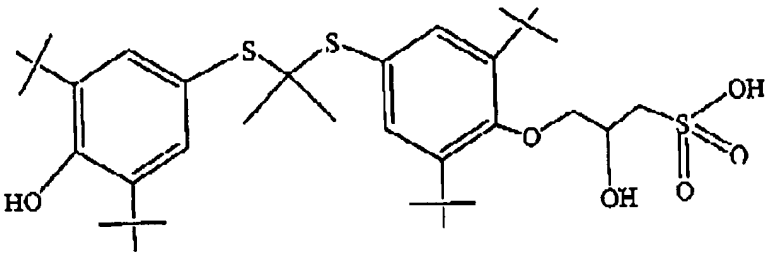
Claim 77 (New): The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is:



Claim 78 (New): The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is $-CH_2PO_3H_2$.

Claim 79 (New): The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is $CH_2PO_3H_2$.

Claim 80 (New): A compound of the following structure:



Claim 81. (New): The composition of claim 28 wherein the composition is suitable for oral administration.

Claim 82. (New) The composition of claim 28 wherein the composition is suitable for intravenous administration.

Claim 83. (New) The composition of claim 28 wherein the compound is in a dosage unit.

Claim 84. (New) The composition of claim 83 wherein the dosage form is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 85. (New) The composition of claim 83 wherein the dosage unit contains 5-1500 mg of active ingredient.

Claim 86. (New) The composition of claim 28 further comprising another medication use in the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Claim 87. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a lipid lowering agent.

Claim 88. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a platelet aggregation inhibitor.

Claim 89. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a antithrombotic agent.

Claim 90. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a calcium channel blocker.

Claim 91. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor.

Claim 92. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a β-blocker.

Claim 93. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory.

Claim 94. (New) The composition of claim 86 wherein the other medication is selected from the group consisting of probucol, nicotinic acid, aspirin, coumadin, varapamil, diltiazam, nifedipine, captopril, enalopril, propanalol, tebutalol, labetalol, ibuprofen, indomethacin, fenoprofen, mefenamic acid, flufenamic acid, sulindac, corticosteroid.